



# Manchester Urban Ponds Restoration Program

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## Watersheds and the Basics of Stormwater

### What is a Watershed?

- A watershed is a drainage area that defines where all the rainwater flows over land to a particular waterbody.
- The water quality of a waterbody is related to the activities that we partake on the land within it's watershed.
- We all live, work, and play in watersheds.
- Thus, it is important for us to prevent pollution at its sources within the watershed, to protect our waterbody.



### What is Stormwater and How Does It Affect Water Quality?

- Stormwater is rainwater or melted snow that runs off impervious surfaces such as streets, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, and rooftops.
- When stormwater runs off these surfaces it can result in the reduced ability for precipitation to soak back into the groundwater table. Instead, it can quickly lead to increased flooding during storm events.
- It can also lead to increased pollution in our waterbodies as it runs throughout the watershed, is collected into storm drains, and then drains into receiving waterbodies. Stormwater can carry pollutants such as sand and silt, oils and heavy metals from vehicles, chloride from road salt, bacteria from pet waste, extra nutrients from fertilizers, pesticides, and other things.
- Stormwater is now the largest source of water pollution in the nation. We can all do our part to reduce stormwater runoff!



Source:  
Think Blue Maine